

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DAKAR FOR HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR, ILO, XF

SUBJECT: THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AND THE ILO

1. IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH LABATT ON 26 JAN. JEAN CLAUDE FORTUIT, QUAI OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ILO MATTERS, RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE ILO TO ASK THE "PERSONAL" QUESTION (AS HE PUT IT) WHETHER THE USG IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN THE RESULT OF "CLOSING THE BOOK" ON THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION OR IS EQUALLY OR EVEN MORE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THIS RESULT THROUGH PROMINENT US ACTION. WHAT PROMPTED HIM, HE SAID, TO ASK THIS QUESTION WAS HIS BELIEF THAT FRANCE COULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN HANDLING THIS MATTER IN GENEVA IF THE US TOOK A LOW PROFILE AND LET THE FRENCH HANDLE IT IN THEIR OWN WAY.

2. EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS ACTING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, HE POINTED OUT THAT IN DIPLOMACY SOMETIMES IT IS THE RESULT THAT COUNTS AND IN OTHER TIMES IT IS THE MANNER IN WHICH THE RESULT IS PURSUED. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, THE THOUGHT HAD OCCURRED TO HIM THAT PERHAPS
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INTERNAL US POLITICS WERE COMPELLING USG NOT ONLY TO SEEK THE DESIRED RESULT OF "CLOSING THE BOOK" BUT ALSO TO DO SO THROUGH A US INITIATIVE AND ACTION.

3. LABATT OFFERED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT WHAT REALLY MATTERED IN THIS INSTANCE WAS TO CLOSE THE BOOK ON THE ISRAELI QUESTION BY HAVING THE GB ACCEPT THE DG'S

REPORT AND THUS RESTORE SOME RESPECT FOR "DUE PROCESS."
THIS OBVIOUSLY IS A MATTER WHICH NOT ONLY SHOULD
CONCERN EQUALLY ALL PERMANENT GB MEMBERS BUT ALSO
ONE THAT REQUIRES THEIR JOINT AND DETERMINED EFFORTS.

4. FROM SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION IT APPEARS THAT
FORTUIT'S QUESTION WAS STIMULATED BY THE DISCUSSIONS
THAT WERE HELD IN THE QUAI ON 24 JANUARY, THE DAY ON
WHICH, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR
TO GENEVA, FROMENT LAURENT, WAS CALLED IN FOR CONSULTA-
TIONS. LAURENT APPARENTLY REPORTED THAT THE MIDDLE
EAST QUESTION WAS STILL A VERY DELICATE MATTER, PARTLY
BECAUSE OF THE ARAB DETERMINATION TO KEEP THE 1974
RESOLUTION OPERATIVE AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY
ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE EMPLOYERS GROUP, AND TO A
LESSER EXTENT THAT OF THE WORKERS. FORTUIT GAVE
THE IMPRESSION THAT LAURENT WAS NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT THE OUTCOME, ESPECIALLY IF THE BALL WERE TO BE
CARRIED EXCLUSIVELY OR TOO PROMINENTLY BY USG.

5. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ENCOURAGE THE
FRENCH TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC IDEAS ON HOW THEY MAY GO
ABOUT "CLOSING THE BOOK" BY ASSURING THEM THAT INDEED
IT IS THE RESULT THAT COUNTS. THE DEPT'S SUGGESTIONS
WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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